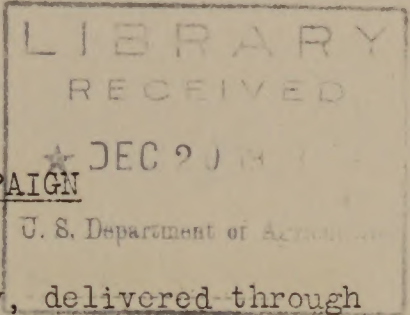


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PROGRESS OF THE BARBERRY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

A radio talk by Mr. L. D. Hutton, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Monday, December 9, 1929 at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

At first thought, the phrase, "Barberry Eradication Campaign," may not seem of immediate importance to the average citizen. But it does concern every man, woman, and child in the United States, for it is an important factor in conserving the food of the nation. The barberry eradication campaign is devoted to saving the grain crops - wheat, oats, barley, and rye - of the North-Central States from their worst enemy - black stem rust. These States, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming produce annually 1,600,000,000 bushels of small grains. Included in this figure are 426,000,000 bushels of wheat, including practically all of the spring wheat raised in the United States.

The worst enemy of the small-grain crops in these States is the disease known as black stem rust. This rust starts on the leaves of the common barberry. At about the time the small grains are beginning to head, the rust spreads from the barberry to the grains. It is spread by tiny spores which may be blown long distances by the winds, so that fields of grain far removed from a common barberry bush may be attacked by rust. Once the rust is started in the grain field it spreads rapidly from plant to plant and soon is using the food materials intended for developing the kernels. If the weather is warm and moist, and therefore favorable for the growth of the rust, individual fields, or finally the fields in the whole county or whole State, may be destroyed. In some years stem rust has ruined as much as 100,000,000 bushels of small grains in the 13 North-Central States alone. Because the common barberry bush is the prime cause of this stem rust in these States, the Federal Government and these States are cooperating in a campaign to find and destroy every harmful barberry within this great area.

This, as you readily can see, is a tremendous task. It means finding in city property and farmyard all barberry bushes which have been planted as ornamentals or hedge plants. But that is not all. We must also inspect carefully the groves, pastures, fence rows, stream banks, woodlands, and all other uncultivated territory to find bushes which have grown from seeds scattered by birds. The destruction of common barberries from these 13 States, therefore, involves a careful inspection of all the land not under cultivation in this tremendously large area.

This campaign to eradicate the common barberry has been in progress since 1918. Several logical questions therefore may be asked. "What have you accomplished in this period? How many bushes have you destroyed? Have rust losses been reduced?" The results in this campaign have been clear cut. To date 18,000,000 barberry bushes have been destroyed. Stem-rust losses have been materially reduced. A comparison of the rust-loss figures in the years before barberry eradication became effective with the losses since that time show that millions of dollars have been saved to our grain farmers each year and millions of bushels of food and food stuffs have been saved for the

people of the nation.

In the 6-year period from 1915 to 1920, inclusive, stem rust destroyed an average of over 50,000,000 bushels of wheat each year in these 13 States. In the 9-year period from 1921 to 1929, inclusive, stem rust losses of wheat in these states have averaged only 16,000,000 bushels a year. This represents an average of 34,000,000 bushels of wheat saved each year for these last 9 years.

But the job is not yet done. Millions of barberry bushes remain to be found and destroyed so that rust losses may be further reduced. The Federal Government and the 13 States have made tremendous progress against this enemy of the small grains but the fight is far from won. They need your help to insure the safety of our crops.

You can help by reporting every common barberry that you see in these 13 States to the U. S. Department of Agriculture or your Agricultural College. You can help further by reporting the occurrence or severe rust attacks to the same agencies. If you desire bulletins and posters to aid you to recognize the common barberry or black stem rust, write to the Department of Agriculture for them. Don't forget this is your fight - a fight to save the food of the nation. Help win the victory!